

Norms to determine the line of poverty

†1620. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the present norms to determine the line of poverty;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to amend them;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of families living below the poverty line in Bihar, as per the existing norms; and
- (e) the number of families, out of the above, which are getting the benefit of Government facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Planning Commission uses a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. These national level poverty lines in the rural and urban areas are disaggregated into State-specific poverty lines using State-specific price indices and inter-State price differentials. These State-specific poverty lines of 1973-74 are updated for the later years using State-specific Consumer Price Index of Agricultural Labourers (CPIAL) in the rural areas and Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers (CPIIW) in the urban areas following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group of Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor.

- (b) There is no such proposal at present.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) As per the latest estimates of the Planning Commission, 425.64 lakh persons lived below the poverty line in undivided Bihar in 1999-2000.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical support to States and Union Territories to conduct a BPL Census in the beginning of the Five Year Plan to identify the rural poor who could be assisted under its various programmes. Programmes such as, Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), a wage employment and self-employment programmes respectively are implemented in the rural areas of the country including Bihar. Under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), assistance is provided to the rural poor for construction of houses, which has a direct bearing on their living conditions. With effect from 2nd Feb., 2006, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is being implemented in the selected 200 districts of the country. The Act provides for enhancement of livelihood security of the rural households by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work. In Bihar, it is reported that 618.37 lakh mandays were generated under SGRY, 1.31 lakh swarozgaris were assisted under SGSY and 3.32 lakh houses were constructed under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) during 2005-06.

Review of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

1621. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made periodical review of implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in various States;

(b) if so, the time-schedule of review and the composition of the Review Committee;

(c) the comparative achievements of the Scheme in States, where it has been introduced; and

(d) Government's action plan to ensure equitable spread of the Scheme amongst different States?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.